

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Page 20 of the specification has been amended to correct an apparent typographical error in line 21. Given that the more preferred range of black pigment content is stated as about 30 to 40%, it is apparent that the preceding reference to "30% or less" in line 21 should have read --30% or more--.

The withdrawal of Claims 21 and 22 is not understood, as these claims are dependent from Claim 1 and thus constitute part of the invention of Claim 1. If the requirement is to be maintained, Applicants respectfully request an explanation as to the basis for restricting these dependent claims from their underlying base claim. This matter should be moot, however, in view of the allowability of Claim 1 as discussed below.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate subject matter previously addressed in Claim 2, except that the black pigment content of the shade material has appropriately been recited as about 30% or more, consistent with the specification corrected as discussed above. More particularly, Claim 1 now additionally recites that the nanoparticles comprise black pigment and that the method further includes a step of forming each of the shade patterns on the plate by printing a shade material containing the black

pigment of about 30% or more. Claim 2 has been amended to recite the black pigment content of 30-40%.

Claim 2 was previously rejected for obviousness over Hatakeyama et al. in view of Lin et al., and further in view of May et al. To the extent that the rejection may be regarded to apply to amended Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

As is implicitly acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action, Hatakeyama et al. fail to teach the use of nanoparticles of black pigment. Lin et al. teach the use of black pigment, but do not teach particle size and content range as claimed by Applicants. May et al. was cited for the teaching of toner containing 20% carbon black. This content is, of course, below the range as set forth in Applicants' Claim 1. Moreover, May et al. teach an average particle size of 9 micrometers, as contrasted with the nanoparticles of the claimed invention. May's teaching of particle size is notably also seen to undermine the Office's unsubstantiated assertion of obviousness concerning the use of particles of the size contemplated in the claimed invention. Further still, the teachings of May et al. relate to electrostatotography rather than photolithography, which is the relevant field of the claimed invention.

Given the various deficiencies of the references as discussed above, it is apparent that their teachings cannot

reasonably be combined in such a manner as would be required to produce Applicants' invention as presently claimed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully urged that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and that this application be passed to issue.

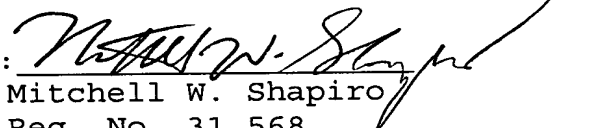
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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